

THE

LETTERS

SHEKEL

VOLUME III NO. 2

SUMMER 1970

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HIGHLIGHTS

AINA'S Second Numismatic Tour

The Theresienstadt Notes

Coins of the Second Revolt

Jewish History in Coins

Coin Photography

100 Years of an Agricultural School

President of Israel Honored

A Gift to Kadman Museum

Diplomat Presents Medals to Alaska

Birth of a Medal

Club News, and Others

See Table of Contents Page 1



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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ELATED, ENLIGHTENED, ENTERTAINED was the quotation in the Coin World on our second annual study tour to Israel.

What more can one say after receiving the red carpet treatment, starting with a lovely sendoff at the airport,

arranged by Mr. Ephraim Levy, Director of Israel Gov't. Coins & Medals. I can go on and on mentioning all the enjoyable meetings with fellow numismatists in Israel, but I sincerely believe the greatest thrill of all was the cocktail party held at the Khan Club in Jerusalem, hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Yitzhak Avni, Director General of Israel Gov't Coins & Medals.

All members had the pleasure of meeting Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem and former director of the Israel Gov't Coins & Medals Corp. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Milo, plus many other dignitaries.

Continued on page 32

The SHEKEL

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Summer 1970

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

MEL WACKS, *Associate Editor* / ARIE KINDLER, *Numismatic Consultant* / YAAKOV MESHORER, *Numismatic Consultant* / SYLVIA HAFFNER, *Associate Editor* / MAURICE M. GOULD, *Associate Editor* / WILMA THOMPSON, *Associate Editor* / ED JANIS, *Associate Editor* / MATTHEW J. VAN DER VOORT, *Associate Editor*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The President's Message, by Morris Bram	Inside Cover
Second Numismatic Tour by Claire Abelson	2
The Theresienstadt Notes by Jack H. Fisher	6
Judaean Jottings by Mel Wacks (Coins of 2nd Revolt)	9
Gould's Gelt Guide by Maurice M. Gould	13
Jewish History in Coins by Dr. Aaron Hendin (Conclusion)	14
Coin Photography — Part II by George Gilbert	18
The Coin That Honors 100 Years of an Agricultural School	20
The Aleph Beth Page by Ed Janis (Palestine Mandate Coins)	23
President of Israel Honored	24
Irving Moskowitz Gift to Kadman Museum	24
Club News	25
Diplomat Presents Medals to Alaska	28
Birth of a Medal by Israel Zedaka	29
The Pruta Series — 100 Pruta	30

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A MOMENTOUS EXPERIENCE

Shalom! It seems like just a few days ago that we arrived back in the United States after an unforgettable "Special Numismatic Study Tour of Israel", co-sponsored by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, American Israel Numismatic Association and the Israel Numismatic Society.

While the tour catered to the numismatist, the non-collectors equally enjoyed themselves. We were 'one happy family,' traveling together, eating together, joking, singing, taking pictures, walking, hiking, swimming, seeking out interesting places, and all eagerly listening to our knowledgeable guide, "Raffi", who became the father of our family. Fortunately for us, he was a numismatist as well.



Tour guide Raffi Moscona left, giving an informative talk while visiting Hisham's Palace near Jericho, as Ben Abelson, right, listens and carries his tape recorder to record all lectures and events on the tour for future educational programs

by Claire Abelson

Raffi knew when to be firm and when to be gentle. He knew the teachings of the Bible, the correct angle and time of day to take pictures, the best restaurants at which to eat, where to go, what to do and what not to do to made the trip enjoyable. *Raffi: an unforgettable man!*



Morris Bram, center, talks to Edward Janis, left, and Ephraim Levy, right, at the reception held at the El Al airport in New York before departing for Israel.

Our "numismatic family" has many things to recall:

Armin Hoffmann, Bronx, N.Y., was the top joke teller and could recall a funny joke regarding almost any subject. He also introduced us to his Israeli sister and brother-in-law, who live in a Kibbutz. Armin plans to have his wife join the tour next year after he saw the enjoyment the non-collectors had during their tour in Israel.

Benjamin Odesser, Chicago, Ill., was met by his lovely daughter at **Lod Airport**. She joined us on the tours until her return to the kibbutz where she is staying for a few more months.

Joseph Freedland, Wilmington, N.C., was the "life of the party" on our tour. Joe bought an Arab headpiece and wore it while we were rolling along. I can still see him in his turban, wearing sun glasses and smoking his cigar while doing a comic monologue with a mythical Arab explaining that we were on a peaceful mission.



Members of study tour climbing the Massada. Seventeen people started the climb, however, two turned back at the base of Massada.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Golub, Oceanside, N.Y., enjoyed the view of Mount Massada and wisely rested, along with a few other tourists, while the rest of us climbed the Massada. Seventeen people started the climb; two turned back at the base of Massada which rises majestically over the Dead Sea and is cut off from the surrounding heights by deep gorges at its base. The Golubs plan to make the tour again, in the hopes that the tram will be completed by transport people to the top of Massada. Then they can see the last stronghold which held out against the Romans during the first Jewish Revolt. At the end of three years of seige, these zealot defenders put themselves to death rather than fall into the enemy's hands.

Dorie and Bob Scheur, Williamsville, N.Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gottesman, Eggertsville, N.Y., also made the climb. Bob brought along his field glasses which helped us locate interesting places.

Adolph Goldberg, Brookline, Mass., and Capt. Charles E. Stillwell, Grand Forks, N.D., were the two lucky people who were afforded the flight to Eilat.



Armin Hoffman waves his arm atop the turret of a captured Syrian tank, while J. Jay Van Grover, left; Alan Weinberg, center; and Ben Abelson, right, looks on.

Herbert and Harriet Marten, Massapequa, L.I., traveled with their two attractive daughters, Robin and Barbara. Herbert enthusiastically purchased every numismatic book that the Kadman Museum offered.

Within a day, **Alan Weinberg, Bronx, N.Y.**, a young eager collector of Israeli coins and **Myron Tiersky, Evanston, Ill.**, a teacher and collector, were attracted to Robin and Barbara and paired off at the dining table and during the rest of the trip.

Max Vlotkoffsky, Melville, N.Y., (also a jokester) was usually the one chosen to demonstrate the depth of an ancient pool, test the high steps of a synagogue, or to prove the acoustics of the amphitheater.

J. Jay Van Grover, N.Y., a dealer who specializes in Israeli coins, met friends and dealers he had been corresponding with during the past. "Jay Jay", a most likeable person, who was the unofficial host to the Sabras, whether it be in the bus, kibbutz or depot.



Mrs. Myriam Avida of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., left, presenting to **Clifford Mishler**, right, a specially struck Jerusalem medal for all of the members of this tour to commemorate the 2nd annual study tour of Israel, as **Morris Bram**, center, looks on with approval.

Clifford and Sandra Mishler, Iola, Wis., were busy taking pictures. Wearing his new sports jacket, purchased while in Jerusalem, reporter Cliff was always taking notes and looking for interesting stories.

Irving and Ruth Moskovitz, Southfield, Mich., were a most generous couple and presented a very substantial numismatic gift to the Kadman Museum. They were busily shopping for their family and friends at the olive wood factory. Ruth wore a beautiful necklace and pin that Irving purchased while in Bethlehem.

Max Fox, Dorchester, Mass., being a connoisseur of food, had dined at a restaurant one night and came back to our hotel very excited. He had seen and spoken to Moshe Dayan at the restaurant and had him autograph his menu. Max did not fly back to the States with us, choosing to extend his tour to France.



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Signatures of group members on a Souvenir letterhead.

Fred and Evelyn Roganson, Branford, Conn., enthusiastically enjoyed every place we went. Fred made a special Masonic presentation to the Grand Master while in Israel. During our tour, Fred always sat in the front seat next to the bus driver shooting roll after roll of movies regardless of any obstacle in his way. Fred and Evy became very dear friends of ours and joined us during our memorable visit to Haifa at the home of Menachem Lew-Ran and his wife Zahawa. A very knowledgeable numismatist, Menachem showed us his extraordinary coin collection while Zahawa

served us delicious **strudel** and insisted that we take the **strudel** back to the hotel with us to eat for the next few days.

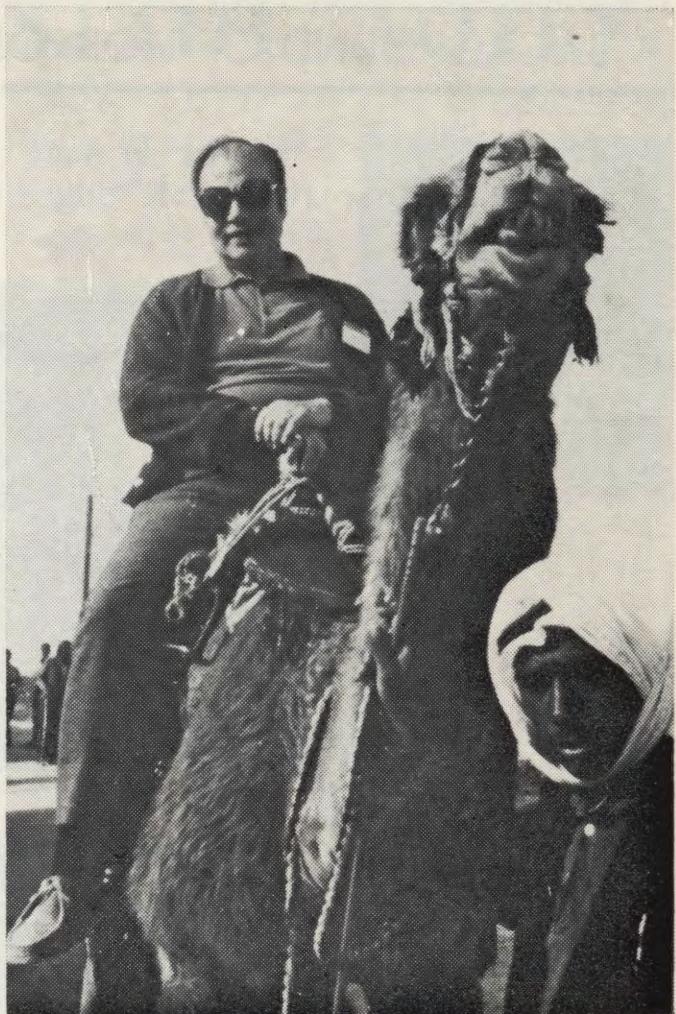
Unfortunately, **Morris and Lena Bram, N. Y.**, were compelled to cancel their tour with us while in Jerusalem. Morris, President of A.I.N.A., had not been feeling well; upon doctors advice he rested and underwent examinations at the Hadassah Hospital. Needless to say, we missed them both. Morris was the real co-ordinator behind this trip and its success is greatly due to his efforts.

Our experience was not only a memorable trip to Israel but an unforgettable numismatic tour as well. We will always remember the many historical sights we saw and our extreme emotional feelings when we first viewed the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Israels most sacred Jewish Shrine, and our exploration of Mount Massada, which gave us a similar feeling; also our evening spent in Raffi's home.

Many things that we did was due to the wonderful co-operation of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation and the American Israel Numismatic Association. The special cocktail party on our sixth evening at the "Khan" and the farewell banquet just prior to our departure, hosted by Mr. Yitzhak Avni, the Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Also, the personally conducted tour of the Kadman Museum by its director, Dr. Arie Kindler; the visits to special club meetings of both the Haifa and Tel Aviv branches of the Israel Numismatic Societies and their wonderful welcomes, meeting government officials and prominent designers of Israel's coins and medals, the greeting from Ephraim Levy at the airport in New York, plus receiving special numismatic gifts to commemorate the tour.

It was a real pleasure to again be with Joseph Milo and to meet Benjamin Landau and Miriam Avida of the Israel Govt. Coins and Medals Corp. Above all, we are very thankful



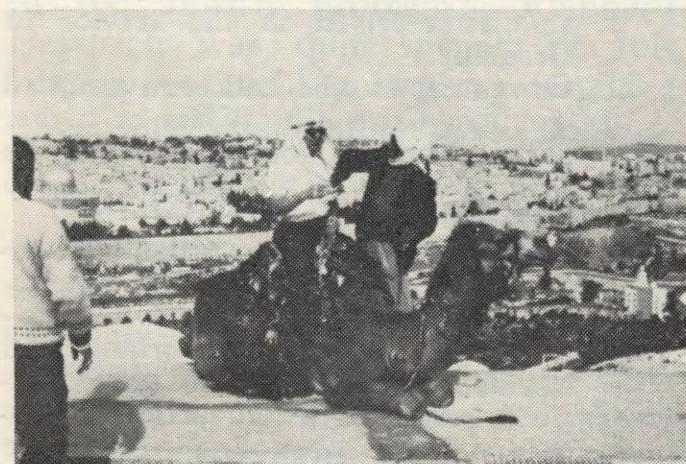
Ben Abelson enjoying a camel ride while an Arab holds the rein.

for the good friends we have made on this tour and in Israel. If you have any fears or doubts about a visit to Israel at this time, you will dispel them if you talk to us, Ben and Claire Abelson, Los Angeles, Calif., or someone who has been there recently.

It is the people who make Israel what it is — the nation of Israel is the best example of what a few people, great in spirit, can do.



Pointing to the Shield of David in the ruins of an ancient synagogue in Capernaum are Morris and Lena Bram, left, and Claire and Ben Abelson, right.



Joseph Freedland being assisted on a camel by an Arab while visiting the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.

A BACKGROUND OF HORROR



A008



Actual size of One Krone Notes issued in 1943.

The Theresienstadt notes are collectors and numismatists with interests in notgeld, Judaica, concentration camps, Germany, World War II and varied other fields of specialization. The notes of Theresienstadt are beautiful, but the story behind the notes, their origin and use is ugly.

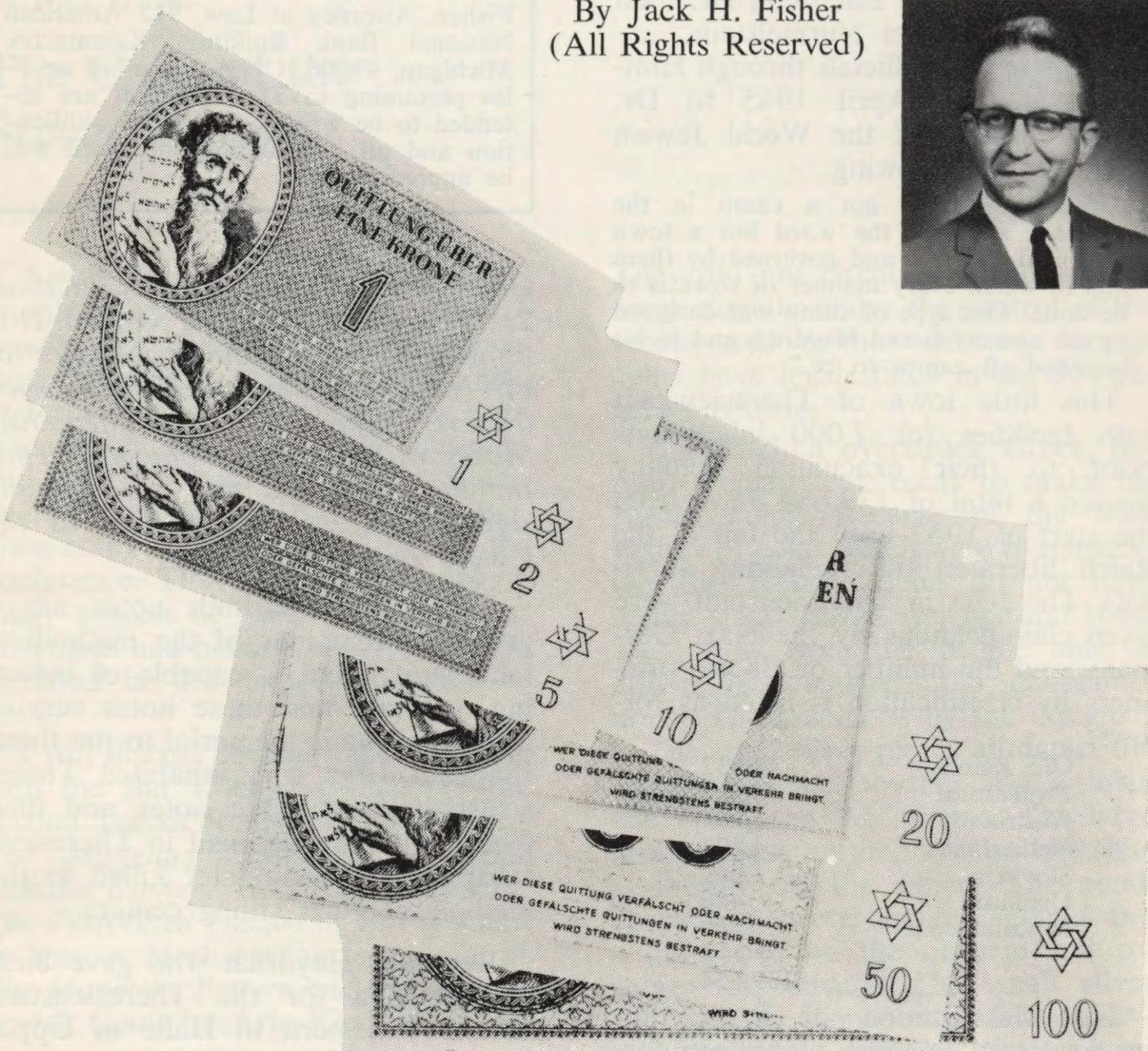
The story behind the notes had its birth with the public announcement made at Gross Wannsee on January 20th, 1942 by Hitler's Gestapo Chief-tan, Reinhard Heydrich, to the effect that Theresienstadt was being considered as the site for a special ghetto for Jews. This ghetto was to be special in that the only Jews eligible must have had special qualifications, and the

necessary qualification groups were as follows:

1. German war veterans of the Jewish faith with severe war incurred disabilities received in the service of Germany.
2. German Jews who had been awarded the Iron Cross First Class or higher military honors for bravery on the field of battle in the military service of Germany.
3. Prominent Jews with substantial contributions in the fields of science, government, medicine, arts and humanities of sufficient importance and worldwide recognition to have possibly resulted in embarrassing inquiries from other countries in the event such Jews would have disappeared in one of the regular Nazi killing centers.
4. Jews over 65 years of age.

THE THERESIENSTADT NOTES

By Jack H. Fisher
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Theresienstadt was accordingly established as a "resettlement" stratagem at that infamous conference at Gross Wannsee as the "final Solution to the Jewish Problem." Reinhard Heydrich was quite proud of this strategy to avoid and parry inquiries concerning the treatment and confinement of Jews.

Heydrich had ordered the approximately 7,000 native inhabitants of the town of Theresienstadt to commence evacuation of their homes starting November 24th, 1941, and entire Jewish families from Prague and Pilsen began to arrive in Theresienstadt in January, 1942 even before the normal civilian population had entirely departed the town. The Jews arriving at

Theresienstadt thought they would be receiving special treatment according to the promises of the Nazi Germans, but little did they know how inhuman this special treatment would be.

The SS Commanders of Theresienstadt in order of service and succession were Haupsturmführer Dr. Siegfried Seidl, Haupsturmführer Anton Burger and Haupsturmführer Karl Rahm. These men were all Austrians and all were hand-picked by Eichmann.

The farce of special treatment and consideration was even carried to the point of the appointment of a Jewish Elder to be the nominal head in command to establish and direct policies under the control and direction of the Nazi SS. Three successive Jewish El-

ders served their people as best as possible under the prevailing circumstances, and these successive Jewish Elders were Jakub Edelstein, Dr. Paul Epstein and Rabbi Nurmelstein.

High German officials through Himmler stated in April 1945 to Dr. Norbert Masur of the World Jewish Congress the following:

"Theresienstadt is not a camp in the ordinary sense of the word but a town inhabited by Jews and governed by them and in which every manner of work is to be done. This type of camp was designed by me and my friend Heydrich and so we intended all camps to be."

This little town of Theresienstadt with facilities for 7,000 inhabitants prior to their evacuation actually housed a total of 139,654 Jews from the start of 1942 until the fall of the Reich liberated the remaining survivors. The Jews in Theresienstadt were given classifications by the Nazi Germans, and the number of Ghetto prisoners by classification is listed as follows:

Old Reich	42,832
Protektorat	73,608
Austria	15,254
Netherlands	4,897
Slovakia	1,447
Denmark	466
Miscellaneous	1,150
	139,654

The classification of Protektorat Jews referred to those placed temporarily in the Theresienstadt Ghetto prior to their departure for the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz. A steady stream of Jews made this one-way journey in the belief of human treatment to be received at the hands of fellow human beings. It is noted with revulsion and almost disbelief that of the 139,654 who arrived at Theresienstadt that only 17,320 were still there in May of 1945. Of the deceased, 86,934 were deported for liquidation in the methodical assembly line killing centers, 33,419 died in the Theresienstadt Ghetto and 1,981 have never been accounted for and are presumed to have died.

The Nazi SS decided to have a special local currency for the Theresienstadt Ghetto, and the Nazi SS authorized the issuance of a local

Collectors with information concerning the notes and script used in Theresienstadt are requested to contact Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49006, U.S.A., as other articles pertaining to Theresienstadt are intended to be written for future publication and all information submitted will be appreciated.

Ghetto currency consisting of 1 Krone, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Kronen. It is difficult to understand the humor of the Nazi SS authorities to issue such a currency bearing a design featuring Moses with the Ten Commandments, the Star of David and the facsimile signature of Jakub Edelstein as the Ghetto Jewish Elder.

These Theresienstadt notes are a gruesome reminder of the methodical inhumanity man is capable of inflicting on man, and these notes survive as a numismatic memorial to the thousands of Jews who inhabited Theresienstadt, used these notes and died from inhuman treatment in Theresienstadt or who were later killed in the methodical Nazi killing centers.

Reinhard Heydrich who gave birth to the idea for the Theresienstadt Ghetto was born in Halle in Upper Saxony in 1904 and earned the name "The Hangman" as a Deputy Director of the Gestapo. He helped found the *Deutsche Nationale Jugendbund*, a fore-runner of Hitler's Youth Movement, at the age of 17 years. He was killed by a partisan bomb in May of 1942, and it was in reprisal for his death that more than three hundred Czechs in the town of Lidice were slaughtered.

It is hoped that numismatists of the future will never have the opportunity to collect notes of their generation with such a background origin of the Theresienstadt notes, and it is humbly hoped that the last notes with such a story and history of Theresienstadt have been issued never to be issued again. This is my hope and it is my optimistic prayer that my hope is shared by all peoples of the world.

JUDALEAN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks

The Coins of the Second Revolt

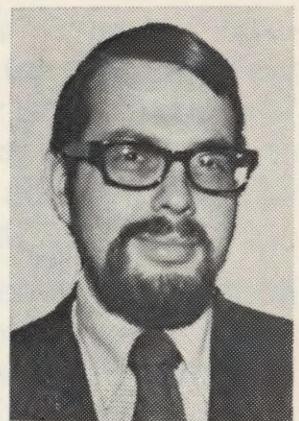
About two years ago, The Israel Numismatic Society published the *Proceedings of the International Numismatic Convention*, which had been held in Jerusalem in December 1963. Representatives of universities, museums and societies from the United States, Switzerland, England, Denmark, Belgium and of course Israel attended the conference. They presented papers on many aspects of ancient Judaean numismatics and history, all of which are included in this important reference book.

I will discuss several papers dealing with the Bar Kochba coinage of the Second Jewish Revolt, 132-135 C.E.: *The Monetary System of the Bar Kokhba Coinage* by Leo Mildenberg, *The Perforated Denars of Bar Kokhba* by Yaacov Meshorer, and a portion of *The Monetary Pattern and Function of Jewish Coins* by Arie Kindler.

Mildenberg

Papyri discovered in the Judaean Desert have given proof that Shimon Bar Koseba (called Kokhba since the time of the *Mishna*) was indeed what the coins of the Second Revolt indicate — Prince of Israel. Having forcibly taken over the land from the Roman emperor, Bar Kokhba leased it to the peasants. Because of Bar Kokhba's control of the land, Mildenberg indicates that: "We can therefore safely assume that he was also the minting authority for all of the coins, including those with the name of Eleazar the Priest of Jerusalem."

The coins were issued in several bronze and two silver denominations; the latter are called "sela" and "sus" in the Dead Sea papyri, whereas these coins were previously referred to as tetradrachm and drachm, respectively.



They did not circulate outside of the areas directly under the control of the rebels, and neither did any foreign coins have legal status in the Jewish-held territories.

Bar Kokhba overstruck Greek, Syrian, Roman, etc. coins to make his Jewish coins. Because of the wide variety of coins which were overstruck, the Bar Kokhba coins do not have highly standardized weights and sizes. Then how were the people able to differentiate between the denominations? The answer is by the designs.

The large silver pieces all depict the Temple on the obverse and a lulab and ethrog on the reverse. The large bronzes have an amphora on one side, a wreath on the other. The small bronzes feature a bunch of grapes and a palm tree on the obverse and reverse, respectively. The small silver and medium bronze coins feature several designs — on the small silver: wreath, amphora, lyre, trumpets, palm branch and bunch of grapes; on the middle bronze: palm tree, vine leaf, lyre and palm branch within a wreath.

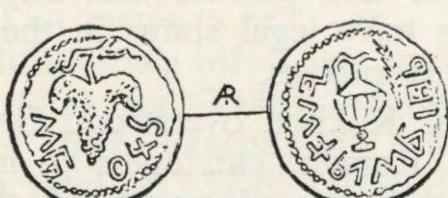
Lastly, Mildenberg shows, by means of die-linkages, the sequence of sela coin-types. His conclusion is that the undated variety followed those dated "Year One of the Redemption of Israel" and "Year Two of the Freedom of Israel."

Many readers may not be familiar with the technique of chronological studies by means of die-linkages. Actually, this method is commonly employed in the study of ancient Greek coins, but has rarely been applied to Judaean coins. In order to understand this approach you must first be familiar with the manner in which the ancients struck coins.

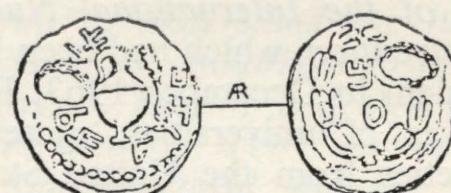
SILVER



sela

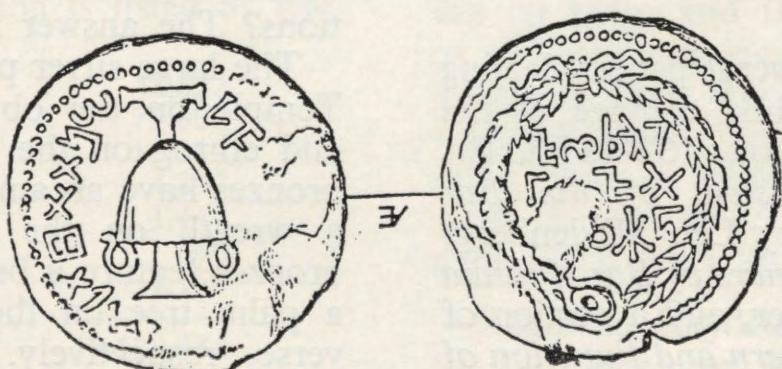


sus

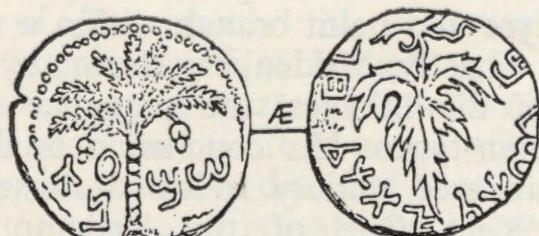


sus-holed

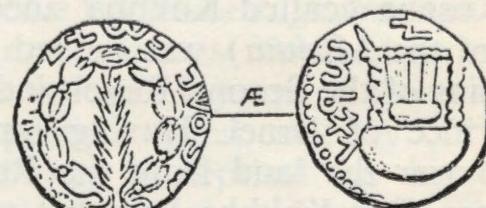
BRONZE



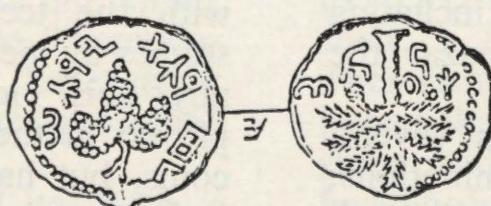
large



medium I



medium II



small

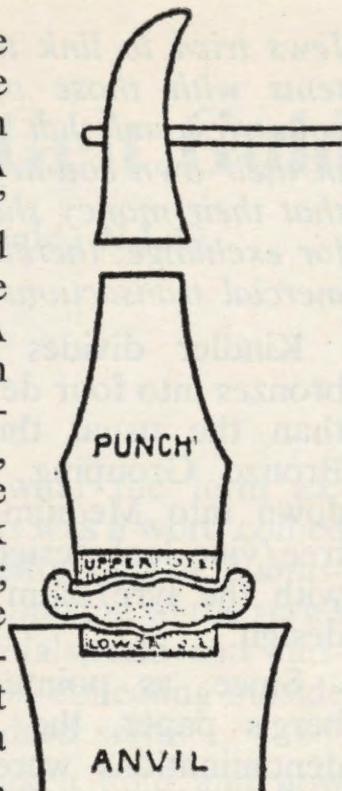
The small die (obverse) would be placed securely in an anvil-base. A hot metal "blank" was then placed over the obverse die with tongs. A large punch, with the reverse die engraved on the end, was placed over the blank and struck with a hammer; thus making one coin. The anvil-obverse die, because it was protected by a surrounding collar,

did not wear out as quickly as did the punch-reverse die. "The punch-dies, carved on the ends of slender punches, subject to the direct blows of the hammer, constantly split or broke. Their lives were short and they had frequently to be renewed."

Thus, let us assume that initially die "A" was used in the anvil and die "a" in the punch; eventually punch-die "a" would break or wear out and would have to be replaced by punch-die "b". And subsequently die "b" would be replaced by "c". By this time the anvil-obverse die "A" would need replacing by die "B". There would, therefore, up to this time have been produced coins with obverse/reverse die combinations, Aa, Ab, Ac and Bc. By reconstructing this die-sequence, the chronological order in which the coins had been struck can be determined.

To detect the commonality of dies, quantities of coins of a single type (i.e. the selas studied by Mildenberg) must be studied in the minutest of detail. Coins struck from the same die must be exact in all details of the design and inscription. Because of irregularities in the striking (i.e. off-center, weak portions, etc.) and wear this is a very tedious task.

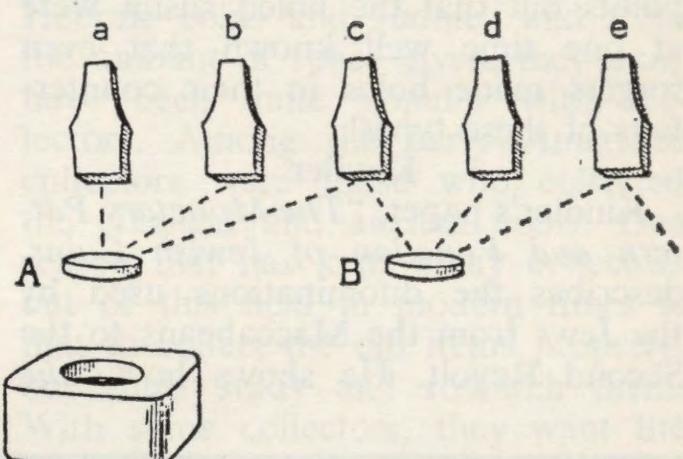
Two photographic plates, illustrating 20 selas, accompany Mildenberg's paper. The die-sequences trace the



"Jerusalem/Year One" type to "Jerusalem/Year Two" to "Simon/Year Two" to "Simon (star above Temple)/Freedom of Jerusalem" and finally to "Simon (wavy line above Temple)/Freedom of Jerusalem."

This appears to solve the question of where to place the dateless ("For the Freedom of Jerusalem") issues in relation to the two dated varieties.

Mildenberg covers many aspects of the coinage of the Second Revolt in an expert manner. Of particular interest is the reenforcement supplied by the papyri, found in the Judaean desert, of numismatically-derived theories.



The interlinking of obverse and reverse dies.

My only question is why, after stating that the ancient writings identify the large silver coin of Bar Kokhba as the "sela", does the author revert back to the old designation of "tetradrachm"? There would seem to be no reason now to ever refer to the silver coins as tetradrachms and drachms, for they were indeed Jewish money after being overstruck with Jewish symbols and inscriptions, and should be so designated — the SELA and the SUS.

Meshorer

In his short paper, Meshorer answers the question of why so many of the small silver Bar Kokhba coins (susim or denarii) are found with holes. He feels that once the Second Revolt was lost, and the Jewish coins lost their legal status, they were saved by the Jews as "vivid reminders of the recent and glorious past." Since only Jewish symbols appeared on the coins and

because they were symbolic of Jewish independence and the national heritage "it was impossible psychologically for the owners to . . . melt (them) down." Thus the silver susim remaining after the defeat of Bar Kokhba were perforated and "hung as necklaces above the heart" as "reminders of the great and tragic past." Those coins which are found unpierced were, Meshorer feels, buried and lost to the ancient Jews of Judaea.

Whether the susim coin-necklaces were also meant to serve as amulets to "ward off the evil-eye, heal, and exert protective powers," as Wirgin states, is not discussed by Meshorer.

In a postscript, Bruno Ostreicher points out that the holed susim were at one time well known that even forgers made holes in their counterfeits of these types!

Kindler

Kindler's paper, "*The Monetary Pattern and Function of Jewish Coins*," describes the denominations used by the Jews from the Maccabees to the Second Revolt. He shows how "the

Jews tried to link their monetary systems with those of the surrounding countries and that of the pagan cities in their own country with the purpose that their money should be acceptable for exchange, thereby facilitating commercial transactions."

Kindler divides the Bar Kokhba bronzes into four denominations rather than the usual three. The Medium Bronze Grouping is further broken down into Medium I, with the palm tree/vine leaf design, and Medium II, with the lyre/palm branch in wreath design.

Since, as pointed out in Mildenberg's paper, the Bar Kokhba coin denominations were differentiated by their designs, rather than exclusively by size and weight, Kindler's subdivision of the medium bronze coins into two denominations, each with unique designs, seems quite reasonable.

The coin illustrations were originally created by F. W. Fairholt for Frederick Madden's "History of Jewish Coinage", published in London in 1864.

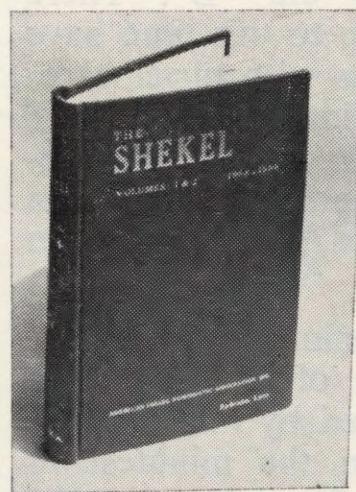
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Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.



Do you know what the term *exonumia* means? This was a word coined by Russ Rulau, Editor of *The Numismatic Scrapbook*, applying to the series such as tokens, medals, odd and curious and all phases of collecting outside of the regular standard series.

The word has taken hold and now there are many who know what an *exonumist* is. I am proud to be one of this breed because we find there is so much that is exciting in the fields beyond the regular coinage.

This form of collecting can hit one at any time. My good friend, Ben Abelson, recently attended the Numismatic Tour of Israel. I know, from conversations with him in the past, that he thought that one who collected the oddball material was some kind of a "numismaniac." When he returned home, he asked me to come over to visit him so he could show me some of the interesting items he had brought back with him.

Included in his loot was the badge of his tourist guide, other badges, tokens, pins, medals, miscellaneous material even beyond the border of Exonumia. He was beaming and smiling about his new possessions, not realizing what a transformation had taken place in his collecting since his trip. Welcome to the Exonumia fold, Ben! And lovely wife, Claire also added many interesting items to her collection.

Richard Yeoman of the *Whitman Publishing Company*, recently had an excellent article on the Haifa Carmelit subway tokens in an issue of the *Token and Medal Society Journal* and more and more articles on the tokens and medals of Israel are being published.

I expect many unusual items to come to light after more research in the token and medal field and the earlier pieces in Israel's history will become classics in the future.

Many of the old auction catalogs of the period before 1900 listed ancient Hebraic coins and Judaica and from the amount of space given, they must have been quite popular with collectors. Among the early American collectors were those who collected the classical and ancient coins. One reason that has kept many collectors out of this field in modern times is that to collect the old items properly, one must study and research them. With some collectors, they want the easy way out and that is, collecting by dates, types and items which are easily catalogued.

One of the great thrills is discovering things for yourself and I do have an ancient coin of Judea which I found after correspondence with the late Dr. Kadman was a piece which even the British Museum does not have.

In the field of Certified Coin collecting, there are some exciting issues for the Israeli collector. The 99 Company of San Clemente, California, has produced the 1970 Israel Specimen coins in covers, as have Pan-Art Covers of No. Hollywood, California. The latter company has also produced a beautiful cover with the Pidyon-Haben coin.

Each year the number of collectors in this field has increased tremendously and the Certified Coins are now mentioned in the Haffner book, giving them their rightful status in the philatelic-numismatic world.

JEWISH HISTORY IN COINS

by Dr. Aaron Hendin, (M.D.)



Continued from Vol. III, No. 1

From the Crusades to Modern Times

From the time of the second revolt until modern times only, the coins of the various occupying nations were struck in or for Palestine. The Jews themselves used the coins of the nations under whom they lived: the Crusaders, Byzantines, Mamelukes, Arabs and Turks. The Jews only struck local issues for such special purposes as charity, *mikveh* (ritual baths), *shochet* (ritual animal slaughter), etc.

During the 16th and 18th centuries many forgeries of Jewish shekels were struck. These were obvious forgeries; first because they are all in modern Hebrew and, second, some of these have effigies of Moses, Aaron, etc., on them. These "shekels" were struck by "followers of Christ" so they could have relics of the betrayal of Christ. They called the shekels "Judas Pennies". Many of these "shekels" can be



Silver Crusader Coin
Obverse — Inscription



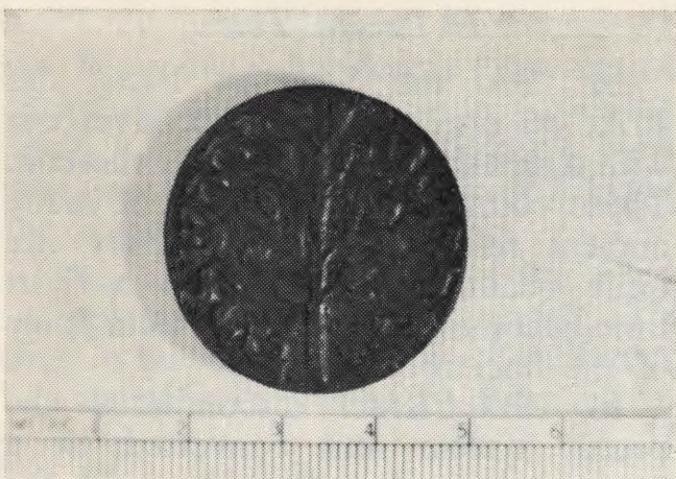
Silver Crusader Coin
Reverse — Cross Inscription



Turkey — 40 Para
Obverse — Turkish (Moslem) Symbol



False Shekel; another obverse type. Amphora and Modern Hebrew "Shekel of Israel",



*False Shekel; reverse type:
Vine branch — Hebrew: "Jerusalem
The Holy"*

found in churches as genuine "thirty pieces of silver".

It is fairly well established that the "thirty pieces of silver" were probably shekels of Tyre with a likeness of Melkarth or Hercules on one side and an eagle on the other. Other types considered possible are tetradrachms of either Antioch or Rhodes. These forged shekels were sold as "facsimiles of the Jerusalem shekel, the



*False Shekel; obverse type:
Amphora and Hebrew (modern):
"Shekel of Israel"*

coin for which our saviour Jesus Christ was sold".

For a period in the early 19th century the Jews of the Frankfurt Ghetto struck small one and two pfennig coins to be used in change. These were not sanctioned by the state and were confiscated. They are known as Jew pfennigs, but are not a truly Jewish issue, just a local issue. The values and dates are often fictitious.



*Local Issue Token
Mikveh Israel (kibbutz)*



*Local Issue Token
Kibbutz Zichron Yaakov*



*False Shekel of Aaron
Obverse: Portrait of Aaron*



*False Shekel of Jesus
Obverse: Portrait of Jesus*

From 1927 to 1942 coins were issued in Palestine by the British under their mandate. These coins are trilingual in English, Arabic, and Hebrew. They were coins for use in Palestine, but again, are not Jewish. Similarly there are some ghetto or concentration camp monies which are not money in the true sense but are of great historical importance.

The last phase of Jewish coinage began in 1948 with the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

For the first time since 135 C. E. the Jews again issued their own coins. These coins are of extreme interest because they have copied many of the ancient symbols found on early Jewish coins. These coins are inscribed in both Hebrew and Arabic and, with one exception they have no effigies stamped on them. It is of interest to note, however, that a medal said to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the State of Israel has a bust of Theodore Herzl on it. This medal, however, is a private issue and has no connection with either the government or State of Israel.



*False Shekel of Jesus
Garbled Hebrew: "The King Messiah
Comes in Peace — God is made Man"*



*Shekel of Antioch
Reverse: Tyche of Antioch*

In Recent Years

In 1960 the State of Israel did strike an official commemorative coin with a small portrait of Herzl thereon. These coins of Israel represent many ancient religious symbols. They are quite beautiful and have in a short time become more valuable than some of the ancient coins.

In 1960 Israel discontinued the prutot system and converted to a modern decimal system based on the agarot and lira. Again only modern interpretations of the ancient symbols are portrayed in these coins.

In 1967 the State of Israel re-established the mint in Jerusalem. For the first time in almost 2000 years Jewish coins are again being struck in the Holy City.

The State of Israel issued a 10 lirot coin in 1967 to commemorate the victory of Israel over the Arab aggressors. This coin is of interest because it bears a representation of the Western Wall, the only remnant of



*Silver Shekel of Type
"30 pieces of Silver" 26 BCE
Obverse: Melkarth or Hercules*



*Tetradrachm (Shekel) of
Antioch; alternate: "30 pieces"*

the Temple of Solomon. The facade of the Temple was previously depicted on shekels of the second revolt. Again, in 1968 a 10 lirot commemorative coin was issued and this depicted the Temple facade.

Thus this short history of the Jews as portrayed in coins is ended. To hold in one's hands a coin of the brave Maccabees or the hated Romans or

of our brothers in Israel today helps one transcend time and space and be more akin to our ancestors of old as well as our Israeli brethren of today.



Tetradrachm of Rhodes
Alternate: "30 pieces of silver"

With these final words, this most complete review of JEWISH HISTORY IN COINS comes to an end. It has appeared in six successive issues of THE SHEKEL, starting with Vol. II, No. 1. We are indebted to Dr. Aaron Hendin for text and all photos.



Tetradrachm of Rhodes
Reverse: Rose



Two Types of Jew Pfennigs
Left: 1807, Right: 1822



100 Mil Coin (1931)
Of Palestine (Mandate)



20 Mil Coin (1927) of
Palestine (Mandate)



Israel 25 Agarot
Obverse: Lyre (note coin of 2nd revolt)

NEW EASY WAYS OF COIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Part II

Your Eye as a Camera

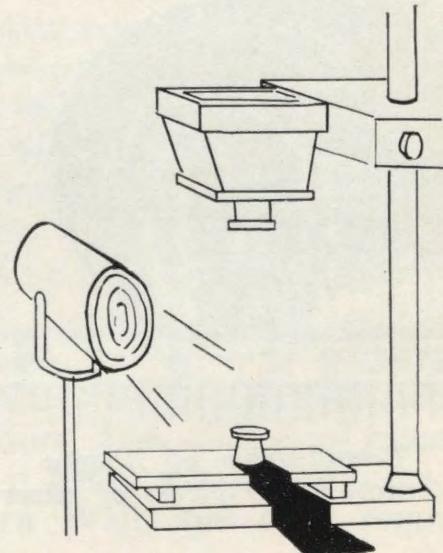
Polaroid pictures are fine as far as they go. In the case of the professional systems which costs hundreds of dollars and designed for laboratories and medical centers, they go very far. But the amateur equipment which the system just described is built around does not accept the special Polaroid films used by the professionals, etc.

Even if you don't own a Polaroid, and a neighbor does, buy the Kali-Copy device to fit his camera anyway. Your occasional instant photograph which you put in the mail that night more than makes it worthwhile.

But there are better ways to take pictures . . . if you want a slide to show at a meeting, or if you want to enlarge a detail from a negative, or if you wish to have pictures sharp at all edges of the photographic field. You'll need a camera which in effect is an extension of the human eye. Most cameras are not.

Most cameras we look into or we look through; they do not become part of our own optical system. If it's a box camera or a typical folding camera, even more costly 35mm cameras, or any of the Instamatic camera family, we peek through a tiny viewfinder or we look through a tiny telescope to see the field. Both of these systems will be useless in taking pictures at a distance of a few inches.

Within the past twenty years, a system of photography which has become popular involves a direct line of sight of your eye and the camera lens to the



Professional results start by using copy stands to support the camera in a fixed position over the coin, leaving the hands free to adjust lighting, determine exposure, trip the shutter. A copy stand costs under \$20.00.

subject. You actually "look" through the lens as you shoot the picture; you look at the image formed by the lens on an actual ground glass "within" the camera. With a glance you not only see the field of view (exactly) but also the sharpness and the lighting effect.

This type of camera (called the *single lens reflex*), together with a new optical device for close-up work, provide the tools for making any family photographer into an *instant close-up* specialist. Cameras in this field can be purchased for as little as \$30.00 and up to \$300.00. The amazing zoom close-up attachment will add a further \$24.95 to your cost. This system is the answer that numismatists have needed to permit slide-making, black-and-white prints and full photographic control at a professional level.

The low-cost camera in this field is the Exa I, available at most dealers

or on order from any photographic dealer. For the \$100—300 category of camera with interchangeable lenses, built-in thru-the-lens exposure measurement, and shutter speeds to 1/1000 of a second, such cameras as the Nikon, Miranda, Pentax, Canon, Minolta, and others are the more desirable brands.

The optical accessory required with any of these cameras (with the exception of the one or two equipped with a lens itself costing nearly \$300.00 for ultra close work without further accessories) is the Tiffen Zoom Close-Up Attachment, a \$24.95 item which requires an adapter ring to secure it to your particular lens or camera.

If you now own an SLR (single lens reflex) take it to your dealer to try it with the Tiffen Attachment. Some SLR cameras will NOT be suited to ultra close work; almost all will.

If you do not, and you figure this is an excuse you've needed to get a better camera once and for all, place yourself in the hands of your dealer and explain first to him the amount of dollars you are prepared to spend. That will save you a surprise and a gasp later on (your surprise . . . your friend's gasp).

Another twenty-dollar bill will save you the cost of headaches and totally wasted effort: it will buy the proper means of supporting the camera in mid-air during the minutes or hours you are photographing coins. No, it is not a tripod. Tripods were designed for the man who had to photograph something out *there*; but coin photography has to do with pictures taken right *here*.

The best support is an ingenious device which few dealers stock; so the best one at the lowest price is available by mail from Spiratone, Inc., 135-06 Northern Blvd., Flushing, N. Y. 11354. For any 35mm or 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " camera, they offer the *Model CP Copy Stand* which will bring the camera to any point from 3-inches to 36-inches from baseboard on which the coin(s) will sit and smile at the camera.

(The author of this article is George Gilbert, editor of THE SHEKEL, and a professional photographer for many years of his life. He is a regular contributor to the photographic press and this is his first piece for the numismatic press.

He will be happy to answer queries related to equipment and procedures. Write to him care of THE SHEKEL).

Films for Photography

The next thing left to buy now is the film. Will you be making color slides? Indoors at night with electric lamps or floods for illumination, you'll need the indoor version of any of the popular color slide films: Kodak, Agfa or Ansco. There is a small advantage in using the Kodak High Speed Ektachrome in that it permits shorter exposures because of its faster emulsion speed. Since you should *not* be hand-holding the camera in any event for such critical close-up photographs, the duration of the exposure (whether it will be 1/5th of a second or a 1/25th of a second is really not *that* material in any event) will be shorter than usual.

But you could plan to seat yourself outdoors in an area where the sun can play on the coin without casting the camera's own shadow on the coin or the background (usually when the sun is low in the sky: before 10:30 A. M. and after 3:30 P. M.). In that event, the film will be outdoor type color film from any of the manufacturers.

If you wish to make black-and-white photographs, any of the medium speed films will be satisfactory. My own preference for all photographs is ideally suited to the needs of coin photography: Kodak's Panatomic-X, a very fine grain (sharp) film with good brilliance.

To be continued

CENTENARY HONORED

Jerusalem, Israel. . . . The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation announced that the 1970 Independence Day Commemorative Coin was issued by the Bank of Israel on May 11, 1970. Dedicated to the centenary of MIKVEH ISRAEL, first and epoch-making agricultural school, founded in 1870, the new coin features agricultural motifs on both sides.

"The creation of the State was made possible by the foundation of Mikveh Israel. If Mikveh Israel had not been founded, I doubt whether the State of Israel could have been born. That's when it all began, and it only remained for us to complete the work at the political and national level."

David Ben Gurion

Priced at \$8.00 each (plus 25c per coin for postage and handling) the new Commemorative Brilliant Uncirculated Coins are available to A.I.N.A. members. A limit of two has been established.

Proof coins at \$16.00 each (plus 25c) available on a one-only basis.

Uncirc.: \$8.00. 2 only to A.I.N.A. members.

Proof: \$16.00. 1 only to A.I.N.A. members.

Plus 25c per coin for mailing & handling.

THE COIN THAT HONORS 100-YEARS



The gathering of the harvest at MIKVEH ISRAEL about fifty years ago. Started by a French group (Alliance Israelite Universelle) in 1870, the settlement has been a farm continuously ever since.



Carpentry and metal crafts were taught to boys in the "smithy" at Mikveh Israel in this photograph from the 1930s, released in the U.S. as part of the fund-raising appeal to assist the settlement of German Jews in the Thirties.



On the **obverse** appears the face value: 10 Israel Lirot, below, the main building of the Mikveh Israel School campus, the years 1870-1970 and their equivalent in Hebrew letters, and on the exergue, the word "Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The ornamental motif on this side is provided by a stylized sheaf of wheat. On the **reverse** appears in Hebrew script: "Centenary of Mikveh Israel." The ornament, a schematic plough, below, in Hebrew script,



"Alliance Israelite Universelle." The coin was designed by Shlomo Rotem.

The sterling silver crown has been declared legal tender and has a face value of IL 10. The weight is 26 gr., the diameter 37mm. 57,500 Brilliant Uncirculated coins were struck by the Government Mint in Jerusalem. 22,500 Proof coins were struck by the Swiss Federal Mint in Berne, marked with a tiny Hebrew letter "Mem."

OF AN AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL



Three generations of Mikveh Israel: the grandfather came over with Charles Netter, founder of the school. His son and grandson were born in Mikveh Israel. The grandson's generation was that of Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defense who studied there.



The grave of Charles Netter in the cemetery at Mikveh Israel. The tombstone notes in French his birth in Strasbourg in 1826.

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We are proud to offer an exciting group of quality genuine ancient Jewish coins. Through these coins you can trace Israel's past — vivid authoritative proof of the historical significance of the Holy Land.

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FIRST REVOLT

R-138, ½ Shekel, Yr. 1 — VF	\$1450.00
R-139, Shekel, Yr. 2 — VF plus	850.00
R-140, ½ Shekel, Yr. 2 — EF	775.00
R-141, Shekel, Yr. 3 — VF plus	850.00
R-142, ½ Shekel, Yr. 3 — VF	775.00
R-147, VG	12.50
R-148, Fine	25.00

JUDAEA CAPTA

R-152, Abt. Fine	85.00
R-159, Good	85.00

SECOND REVOLT

R-166, Tetradrachm — VF	1000.00
R-181, EF	325.00
R-185, EF	325.00
R-187, EF	325.00
R-188, VF	275.00
R-189, EF	175.00
R-192, VF	250.00
R-194, Fine/VG	150.00
R-190	P.O.R.
R-191	P.O.R.
R-197	P.O.R.
R-198	P.O.R.
R-200, Fine	35.00
R-204, Fine	35.00
R-204, VF	45.00
R-205, Fine	85.00
R-206, VF	50.00
Shekel of Tyre — "30 Pieces of Silver"	
VF	67.50

MACCABEAN DYNASTY

R-6, VF	\$100.00
R-9, Fine	12.50
R-10, Fine	12.50
R-13, Fair	15.00
R-14, "Widow's Mite" — Average	7.50
R-14, "Widow's Mite" — Choice cond.	
RARE.	20.00
R-15, "Widow's Mite" — Fair	5.00
R-20, Fine	12.50
R-22, VG	150.00
R-25, VG	25.00

HERODIAN DYNASTY

R-26, Fair	50.00
R-26, EF	175.00
R-27, VF	210.00
R-32, Fair	20.00
R-33, Fine	15.00
R-34, Good	27.50
R-35, Good	25.00
R-55, VG	20.00
R-56, VG	25.00
R-57, VG	25.00
R-59, VG	9.50
R-60, VG	65.00
R-96, Good	25.00
R-102, VG	275.00

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R-118, VG	15.00
R-119, VG	12.50
R-120, VG	12.50
R-121, VG	12.50
R-128, VG	12.50
R-129, VG	12.50
R-130, VG	17.50
R-131, Pontius Pilate — Fair	19.50
R-132, Pontius Pilate — Good	19.50
R-133, Pontius Pilate — Good	17.50
R-134, VG	15.00
R-135, VG	12.50
R-136, VG	9.50

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The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. Why were the Palestine Mandate 5, 10, and 20 mils coins issued with center holes cut out while the 1, 2, 50 and 100 mils were without the center hole? (L. B., Bayside, N. Y.)

A. When I first saw the question I thought that it was time to give up the column but decided to look at the coins instead. Examination of the coins will show that there would be no confusion by the public in the passing of 50 and the 100 mils silver pieces. They were approximately the size of the U. S. quarter and half dollar. In the 1 mil and 5 mils the difference was only 1 silly mm: 21mm vs. 20mm.

The light bronze of the 1 mil could easily be confused with the nickel-bronze especially in a yellowish artificial light. The same confusion would exist between the 2 mils (28mm) and the 10 mils (27mm). The 20 mils (30.5mm) nickel-bronze which had a color not unlike our nickels could be passed to a myopic peddler for the silver 100 mils (29mm). It is therefore my conclusion that the Palestine Currency Board instructed the Royal Mint to put holes in the center of the 5, 10, and 20 mils coins to avoid confusion with the 1, 2 and 100 mils respectively.

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL HONORED

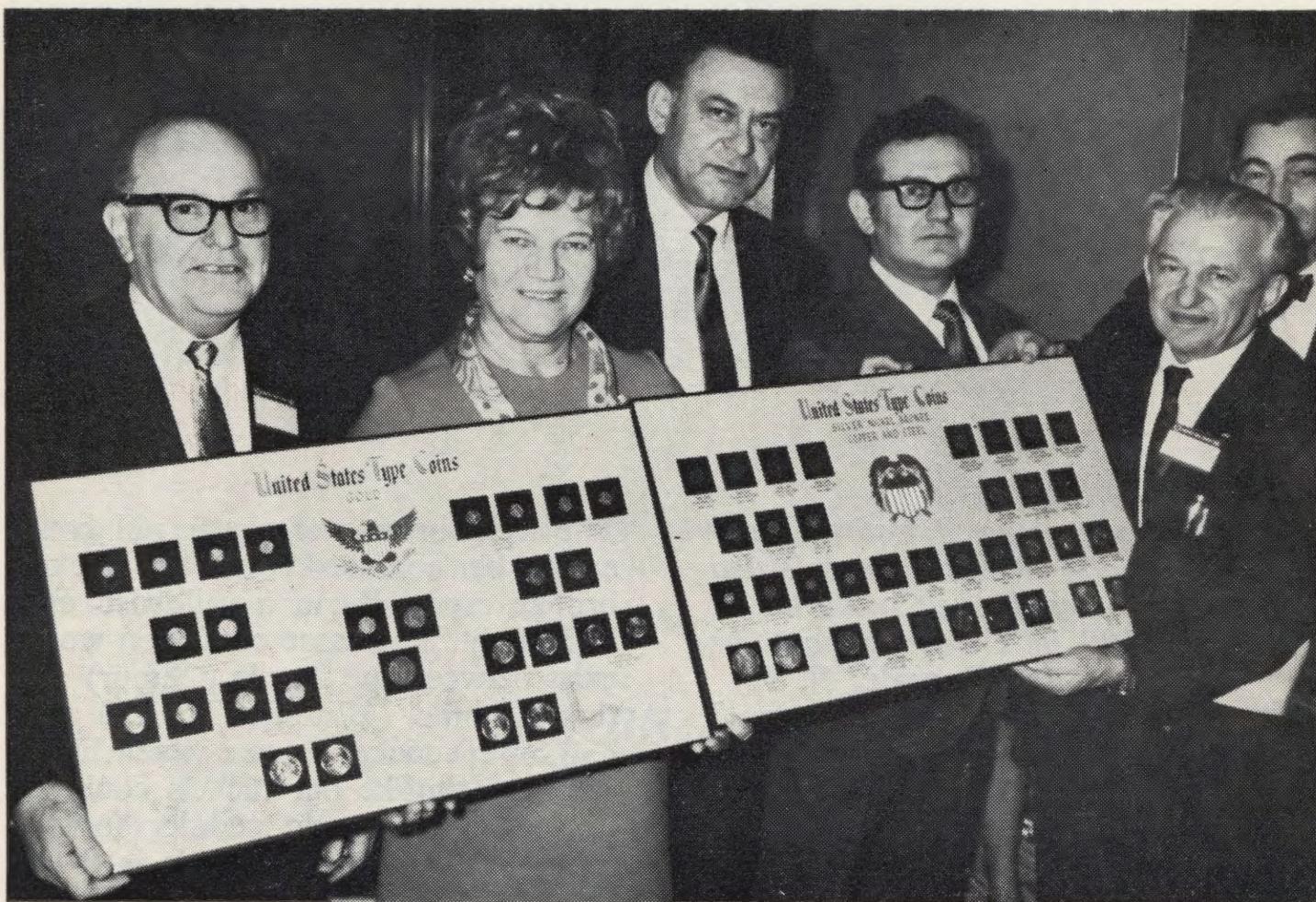
Jerusalem, Israel. . . . The President of Israel, Zalman Shazar, was presented with the first set of 5 Pidyon HaBen Coins by Yitzhak Avni, director general of Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. The coins, issued by the Bank of Israel as legal tender, can be used for the redemption of the first-born son, for the first time since renewed statehood.

The precept of redemption, by which the father redeems his first-born son with five shekels, releasing him from the priesthood to which all first-born sons are dedicated, was given to the Israelites when they were still wanderers in the desert. The tradition is observed to this day all over the world. "FROM A MONTH OLD SHALT THOU REDEEM, ACCORDING TO THINE



ESTIMATION, FOR THE MONEY OF FIVE SHEKELS, AFTER THE SHEKEL OF THE SANCTUARY. . . ." *Numbers XVIII.*

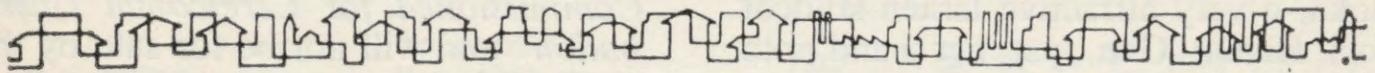
A GIFT OF COINS FOR THE ISRAEL MUSEUM



A Gift of Coins for the Israel Museum

A collection of United States type coins, a gift of Irving Moskowitz to Israel's Kadman Numismatic Museum, is displayed at New York's Kennedy Airport prior to departure of the second annual study tour of Israel. From left: Morris Bram, president, American Israel Numismatic Association; Mrs. Moskowitz; Ephraim Levy, Israel assistant trade commissioner; Nathan Sobel, first editor, THE SHEKEL; Irving Moskowitz, and Ben Odesser. The tour group left New York March 1.

Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor.

TEXAS GROUP SEES FILM

The April meeting of the INS of Texas saw a beautiful color, sound film from Israel, *Within the Circle*. Distribution of the New Pidyon Ha-Ben coins and an auction concluded the meeting.

The club has secured, with help of Bob Astrich a table at the Texas Numismatic Assn. Meeting at the Rice Hotel in mid-April. Members were urged to attend and to see some of the rarest Israel coins in the U.S. including the 8 grain 1960 1 Agora, reported Harold Z. Nelkin.

ILLINOIS CLUB AIDS MEMBERS

The tenth general meeting of the Illinois INS was held at the Bernard Horwich Jewish Community Center, April 29, 1970. Despite the 14" snow there were 23 people present.

President Harry Flower reported on a committee meeting at which the proposed by-laws and constitution were discussed. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Nathan Eglit, these will be finalized and presented to the membership at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. David Silverman then explained his new "Inventory Control" card. The purpose of this card is for the collector to keep a record of his numismatic possessions. The card measures 5" x 8" and will fit into a standard file box or cabinet. It was conceived and developed by Mr. Silverman and has spaces to provide for all information of your numismatic specimen. It can be used for coins, medals or paper money. Each card may be used for each set or series of coins or medals, or for an individual piece. The matter

of coin insurance was introduced. It was pointed out that most insurance companies require some type of inventory. These cards will definitely fill this requirement.

Mr. Silverman also introduced the subject of buying, selling and trading of numismatic material. He has designed "WANTED" and "FOR SALE" slips, a 4" x 5 1/2" paper form on which a member may list an item or items that he wants to buy or trade for his collection; or he may list duplicates that he wishes to sell or trade. These forms are to be fastened to a bulletin board in the meeting room and the pre-meeting time may be used as the *buy, sell and trade period*.

Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois

WANTED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ Member Non Member

Conditions & Terms

PRICE

Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois

FOR SALE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ Member Non Member

Conditions & Terms

PRICE

The door prize drawing was next. A guest for the first time, Miss Varda Moka, a very attractive Israeli student from Ramat Gan, put her hand into the hat, and in front of all of us, drew out the lucky number: *her own!* The prize was donated by Mr. Lou Nagy.

Mr. Harry Flower spoke next on his large display of Judaic material:

This exhibit was divided into four categories: (1). **The Judaic Medals of Paul Vincze** which consisted of a silver plaque of "The Golden Calf"; silver and bronze medals of "Wilfred Sampson Samuel" and the "Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of London"; silver and bronze medals of "300th Anniversary of resettlement of the Jews of Great Britain"; silver and bronze medals of "Herbert Viscount Samuel"; silver and bronze medals of "Lee Max Friedman Award of the American Jewish Historical Society"; and the silver medal of "Yehudi Menuhin". (2). **The Judiac Medals Struck** in the Netherlands consisted of an extremely high relief 4" bronze of Albert Einstein by Maarten Pauw; two sizes in silver and bronze "Zionist" medals by van der Hoef; large bronze medal of "Eduard Gerzon"; large bronze of "Dr. Memdes Da Costa"; Mr. Samuel van Houten"; Mr. T. M. C. Asser"; anti-pogrom medals; medals of "Josef Israels"; marriage medals, etc. Also there were recent medals from the Netherlands such as a set of five "David Ben Gurion", a set of General Moshe Dayan", a set of Netherland-Israel Solidarity Medals", and others. (3). **Charms and Talismans of Judaic Interest** was composed of a collection of about 40 gold, silver, bronze, wood, etc. charms and good luck pieces that were of a Judaic motif. (4). **Replica Coins of Judaic Interest** consisted of a collection of replicas or reproductions of rare and expensive coins. Among these were shekels and half shekels of the Jewish Roman War, Tetradrachm of the Bar Kochba War, the Roman Judaea Capta of 71 A.D., and others.

The highlights of the meeting were the reports of Mr. Myron Tiersky and Mr. Ben Odesser on their recent Israel Numismatic trip. Mr. Tiersky spoke first; the members listened with great interest as he described various phases of the tour. He also displayed a case of souvenirs and among these was a medal struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. especially for members of this tour. It was the JERUSALEM Medal of the "*Historical Cities of Israel*" series (Cat. No. 59133) but struck in bronze. This

35 mm. bronze piece may now be added to the list of "*Medal Officially Commissioned for Ceremonial Distribution*" and will not be for sale by the IGC&MC.

Mr. Odesser told us of his impressions and experiences of his second trip to Israel.

MASS. GROUPS CONFER

The May meeting of INS of Massachusetts was a joint meeting with the Israel Philatelic Society held at the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum on the Campus of Regis College, Weston, reported Irving L. Rudin, president, Newton, Mass.

It is with deep sorrow that the members learned of the loss of Leon Wolffers, a charter member of the group. Leon was keenly interested in Israel, its coins and the Society.

The final meeting of the Spring will be a dinner meeting in June, reports Sandra Walter, secretary.

L. A. GROUPS ELECTS

The following have been selected to lead the membership during 1970: *President*, Milton M. Fishgold; *First Vice President*, Nathan Bromberg; *Second Vice President*, Claire Abelson; *Treasurer*, Babe Baker; *Recording Secretary*, Leona Thomas; *Corresponding Secretary*, Sara Breslow.

Members of the Board of Governors are Evelyn Sadler, Ben Abelson and Lewis Thomas. The club is now celebrating its fifth year.

National Coin Week for 1970 was celebrated by the Israel Coin Club on Sunday, April 26, using the theme "*Coins—Heralds of a Great Nation*" as sponsored by the *American Numismatic Association* in which the club holds membership. A group of fifty gather once a month to view exhibits and to hear short talks. The March program included first hand information by the Abelsons following their tour of the Holy Land, reported *Publicity Chairman*, L. J. Sterling of Seal Beach, California.

A Booming Applause of five new members who were voted to membership:

Birt Slater	Sponsored by
Eleanor Slater	— Ben Abelson
Dr. Carl B. Younger	— Ed McClung
David Goodnich	— Sarah Breslow
Dr. Nathan B. Gitlin	— Sally Marx

Everyone is still talking about our wonderful Speakers of last meeting. We are indeed indebted to Maurice Gould and our Program Chairman for presenting this excellent Program.

Hearing Mr. ED ROCHELLE, Editor of the A.N.A. *Numismatist* brings us a little closer to the Amer. Numismatic Ass'n, and enlightens us all on the many services available to members both on a Club level and individually. We were delighted with the very humorous presentation of excerpts from letters which cross the Editor's desk from frustrated Numismatists. Mr. Rochelle could very well take on the added title of "DEAR ABBY II".

Sharing in this program was THOMAS W. BECKER, of the Franklin Mint who favored us with a showing of color slides depicting step-by-step construction of their new production center and offices.

Do you remember the busy gentleman who was snapping candid shots during our February Meeting at the Hilton Hotel? Well, as a bonus to our super program, Dr. Freibrun had a surprise showing of his photographic efforts. We were all delighted to refresh our memory and relive Feb. 22nd with happy thoughts.

Another *HIGH-LIGHT* of the day: Through the courtesy of member John Baker and Maurice Gould, we had an opportunity to see the actual flag which had, up until a very recent date, been flying over the Post Office on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Post Master, Abraham Prais presented the flag to John when he was recently in Israel on Certified Coin Business.

There was an abundance of Door Prizes, and our youngest visitor, Lee Marx, won the top prize of the day . . . the FD-FI Cover Commemorating the U. S. Mint, Phila. Dedication.

I.N.S. OF N.Y. TO VISIT UNIQUE LABORATORY

The I.N.S. of N.Y. had its April meeting at the Willkie Memorial Building, 20 West 40th Street, in New York. At a well attended meeting of over 50 members and guests, Alan Weinberg gave a color film slide presentation of his just concluded trip with AINA to Israel.

Among the topics for the evening were discussions on the presentation sets of Israel Coin and Metals Corp., and bank notes of the first issue.

In May, the speaker for the evening was the group's President, Edward Janis, who spoke on *The Origin of Design of Israel's Coins*. This talk was accompanied by both slides and his prize winning exhibit.

In June, the I.N.S. of N.Y. will meet at the Harmer-Rooke Galleries, 604 Fifth Avenue, to view the quarter-of-a-million dollar, one of its kind, authentication laboratory. Members will bring both modern and ancient coins which are suspected to be counterfeit, and these coins will be put through varied tests before the group.

These tests include: specific gravity, spectro-graphic, micro-graphic and other methods of examination. One of the members has volunteered to prepare an article on this evening for a future issue of *The Shekel*.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The Hebrew letter "Mem" appears on all one and five pound commemoratives with the exception of the 1958/5719 issues. The "Mem" stands for Meyuchad or Melutash which translated into English means special, or polished.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The word for money, pecuniary, comes from the Latin *pecus* or ox — actually the Talent is the weight of gold needed to purchase one ox and Shekel is the Babylonian word for 1/100 of a Talent.



Publisher C. W. Snedden (left) receives Israel Medal from David Ben-Dov, Regional Consul-General of Israel at meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

DIPLOMAT PRESENTS MEDALS

Alaskans took off parkas and mukluks long enough to accept the hand of friendship from the State of Israel when the Regional Consul-General of Israel, David Ben-Dov brought greetings from Israel to America's forty-ninth state recently. Meetings with the pleased Governor of Alaska, the Mayor of Anchorage and with C. W. Snedden, publisher of the Fairbanks *Daily News-Miner* were the occasions for official gifts of Israel medals, the historic first time that the State of Israel has made such official visits and presentations to the new American State.

The specially framed Victory Coin and Medals of Liberation in presentation cases were presented as part of brief ceremonies which were widely reported in the Alaskan press.

A five-column headline, *Regional Israeli Consul General David Ben-Dov in Visit to State*, was part of an illustrated article showing the presentation of the Medal of Liberation and giving voice to the reasons for the normally San Francisco-based diplomat to make the trek to the frozen North.

The purpose of the visit, reported the *Daily News-Miner* was "to cultivate and develop the understanding that already exists between the American people and the people of Israel".



The Governor of Alaska (right) and David Ben-Dov.



From l. to r.: Mayor Sullivan of Anchorage; David Ben-Dov of Israel; and Capt. Azniel Fellner, Chaplain at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the only Rabbi in Alaska.

Birth of a Medal



Famous Mr. Shmuel Kretschmer working on Pablo Casals Medal. Mr. S. Kretschmer, head of the firm S. Kretschmer and Sons, has modelled most of the medals issued by the I.G.C.A.M. Corp. and some coins issued by the Bank of Israel.

Two types of medals are struck by the Israel Coins and Medals Company.

The first is of a more popular character and the management decides as to issues in keeping with instructions from the Government, and the Prime Minister appoints a committee to fix the design.

The second type is commissioned either by Government or by a public body which bears all the charges involved. A public body, in such a case, makes its wishes known as to the theme of the medal, and in either case the Company applies all its experience and knowledge to ensure that the issue is satisfactory artistically and in design and inscription truly answers the requirements of the client.

The medal is born with the idea that it is about to embody, the public or national event, or the personality, that it is about to commemorate. A committee is set up, its members acquainted with the motif, and representing the Company respectively. For example, the Artists' Association and the Professor Yigael Yadin served on the committee for the *Bar-Kochba* medal; Gideon Hausner, Dr. A. L. Kubovy and Abba Kovner on that for the *Ghetto Uprisings* medal.

It often takes several meetings to decide on obverse and reverse of the medal. Once a decision is taken, the Company issues a tender to four or five artists of acknowledged merit,

from a panel which is enlarged or altered from time to time. The tender gives precise details of design, form and content of inscription, height and depth of metal. Account must be taken of the reliefs and incuses where minting is concerned to ensure that they do not in any way affect the quality of design. When sketches are submitted, the committee meets to award the assignment: obverse and reverse designs are sometimes put in the hands of different artists. In many instances the committee calls for changes in a design to bring it closer to its original specifications.

The design (or designs) once chosen, a second tender is issued, this time to cast the dies, positive and negative, from which the medal will be struck.

The Company supplies the manufacturers with the blanks, in bronze, silver or gold, according to needs. The process of production is lengthy and is kept under close and constant surveillance both by the designer, to make sure that his ideas are faithfully rendered, and by the Company, which oversees the artistic processing of the dies, the actual casting and polishing of the medals. It all means that a medal is placed on public sale only after at least three months of arduous labour on the part of scholars and servants, artists, manufacturers and craftsmen. — *Israel Zedaka*.



100 PRUTA

OBVERSE: In the centre, a palmtree with seven branches and two clusters of dates. Above this, "Israel" in Hebrew, and underneath in Arabic. The rim is pearled. The palm was one of the most frequently recurring symbols of Israel and even the Romans used it for the Land of Judah on the "Judaea Capta" coin. The tree first appeared on a Hebrew coin of Herod Antipas and afterwards on the coins of the period of the War of the Jews against Rome. But on the coins of the Bar-Kochba period, the seven-branched palmtree is the most common symbol.

REVERSE: Between two olive-branches, the inscription "100 Pruta—5709".

*When you think Israel
Think "J. J."*

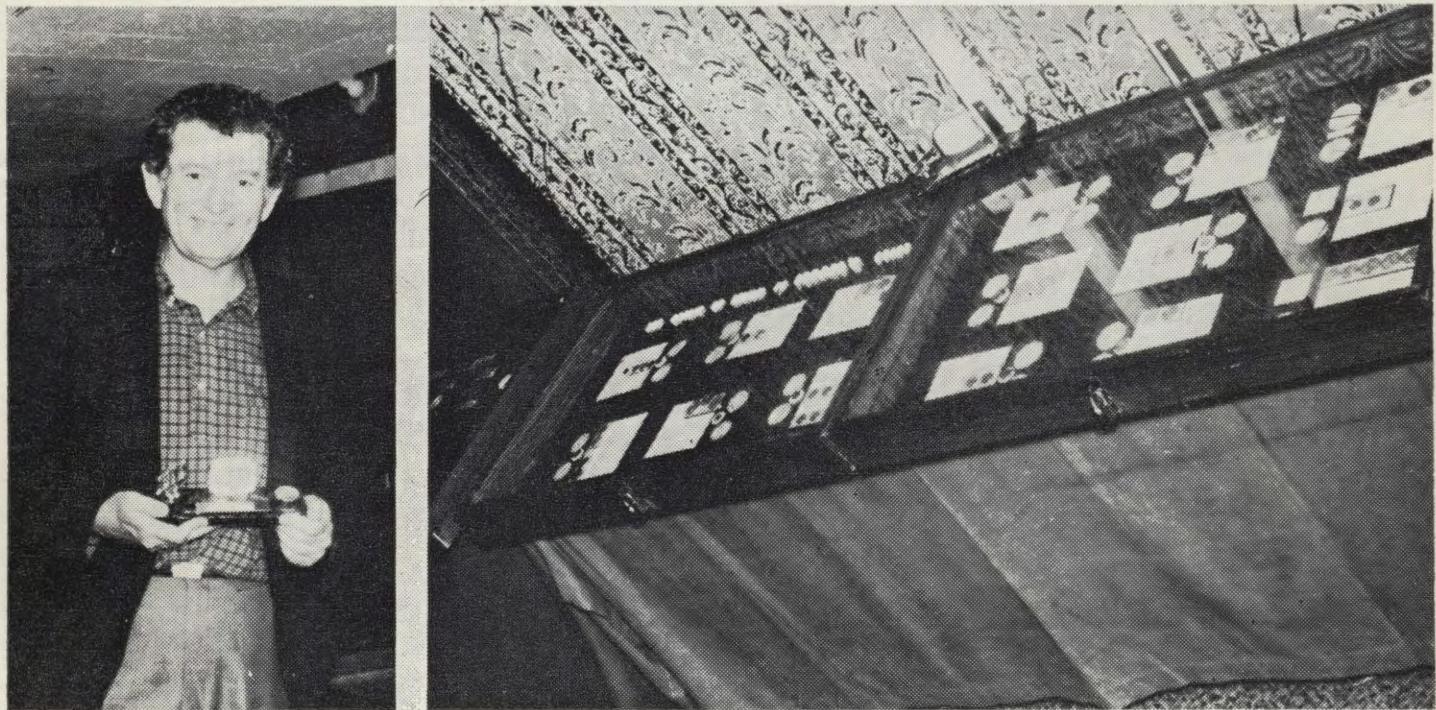
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Ed Janis, president of INS of N.Y. holds his First Prize in the field of ancient coins; two-case exhibit has been shown to INS groups in northeastern states.

JANIS WINS FIRST PRIZE IN ANCIENT COINS AT NEW YORK CONVENTION

The Metropolitan Numismatic Convention was held at the Park Sheraton from May 14th to May 17th, sponsored by eleven Numismatic clubs in the Metropolitan, N.Y. area. It was attended by over 5,000 visitors and participants.

First Prize in the field of ancient coins was taken by I.N.S. of N.Y. President, Edward Janis, for his exhibit of ancient Judean coins. The two-case exhibit was titled *The Origin of Israel's Coins*.

Because the exhibit contained a complete type set of modern Israel's coins and their ancient prototype, Janis had the option of entering his exhibit in either the ancient or the modern class of competition. A wise decision was made in choosing the ancient field.

This winning exhibit has been viewed by the I.N.S. clubs of Massachusetts and Philadelphia on previous occasions where Janis was a guest speaker.

PANart COVERS OFFERS FIRST DAY COVERS, MEDALS

Collecting of Israel material, stamps, coin and now p-n-c covers has rapidly become a field all its own. LIMITED EDITIONS plans to continue to produce unique p-n-c covers for the Israel collector. Their first such production was the "Pidyon HaBen" 10 pound Commemorative cover, issued earlier this year. This special cover was also unique in that it represented the first time Israel had issued a commemorative coin and a stamp with official first day cover on the same date. This LIMITED EDITION was also serially numbered, with less than 1000 produced. Some of these covers are still available at the original price of \$19.50 postpaid.

The *Levi Eshkol* LIMITED EDITION cover, postmarked on the first day of issue of the *Levi Eshkol* stamp on March 11 is now available in a serially numbered edition of 500 bronze medals at \$7.50 and a very small issue in .999 silver at \$16.50 each.

Orders for any of the above covers should be directed to: PANart Covers, P.O. Box 2525, North Hollywood, California, 91602. Californians must add 5% sales tax please.

A complete list of various p-n-c covers available for sale will be sent to all those requesting same and enclosing a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Simon the Maccabee was the first to issue the Jewish shekel as a coin, and we learn from the Book of Maccabees that the privilege of striking was expressly granted him by King Antiochus VII of Syria.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

The design of the reverse of the Liberation Medal comes from "Judea Capta" struck by Emperor Vespasian on the occasion of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued

The finale of the tour was held at the Kadman Museum in Tel-Aviv, where *Irving Moskovitz* of Detroit, Mich. presented *Arie Kindler*, Curator of the Kadman Museum with a U.S. type set consisting of Gold, Silver and copper coins, plus a cash donation. Another presentation by *Joseph Freedland* of Wilmington, N.C. consisted of a complete set of 20th Century coins of the world, plus cash.

My heartfelt thanks to our dear friends Claire and Ben Abelson of Los Angeles who so graciously assisted me in the success of the tour.

I would like to bring to the attention of our readers, the existence of many counterfeit and forgeries in ancient coins in the market today. Be ever so careful. If in purchasing a coin there is any doubt whatsoever, have your dealer give you a signed statement guaranteeing the genuiness of the coin. It is better to be safe than sorry. AINA will gladly assist you if there are any problems involved.

Congratulations to the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles and its president *Milton Fishgold* on behalf of their fifth anniversary. Best wishes are also extended to the past presidents, officers and members of the club. *Lechaim* (Long Life).

May I also extend my very best to the Israel Numismatic Society of South Florida and president *Hy Sootin*, who are celebrating their third anniversary with a dinner at the Royal Hungarian Restaurant in Miami Beach.

I share with you pried in announcing progress in the process of forming new Israel Numismatic Societies in various cities. I hope to be in a position to report to you on further developments in the next *Shekel*.

MORRIS BRAM,
President

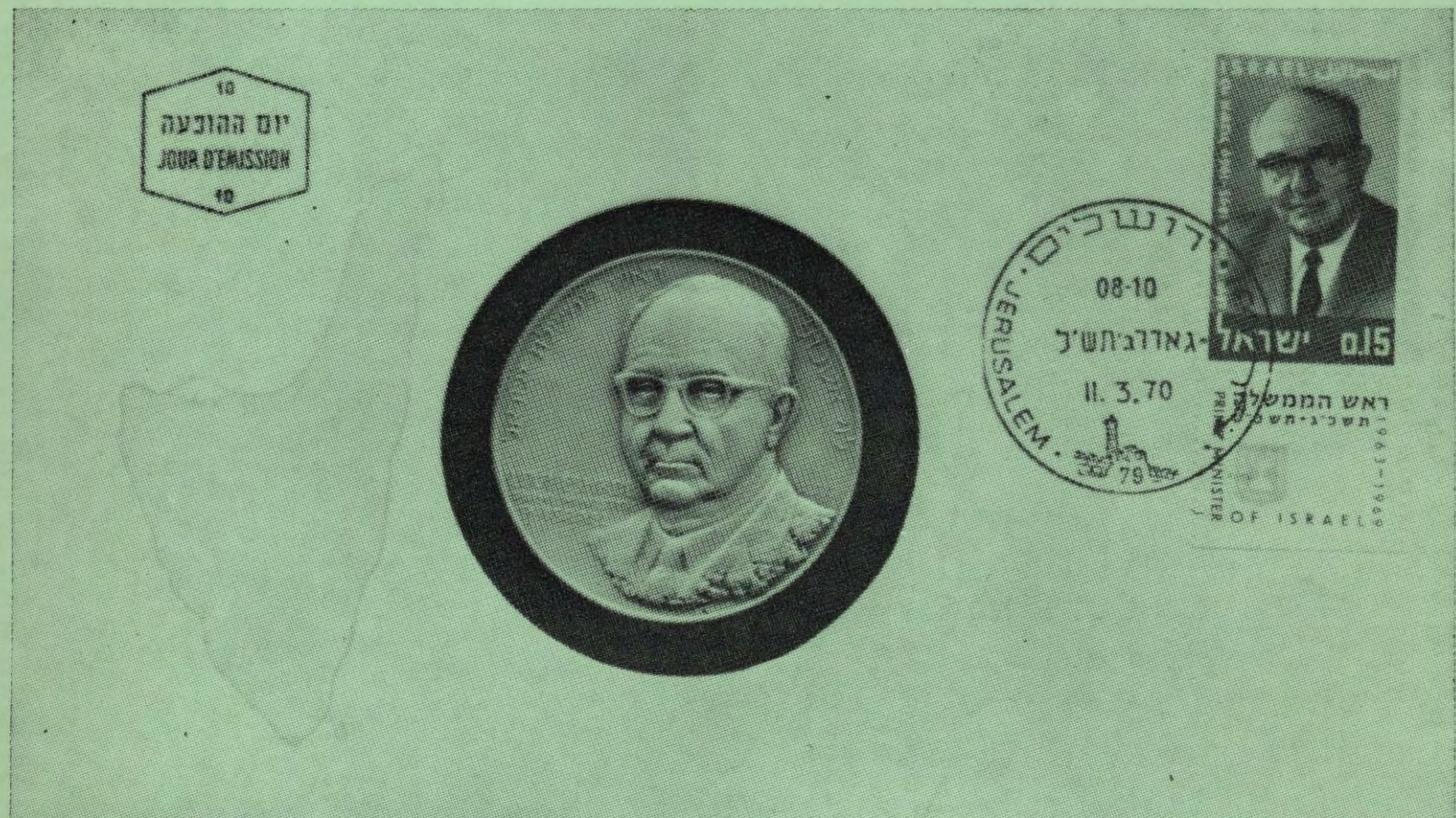
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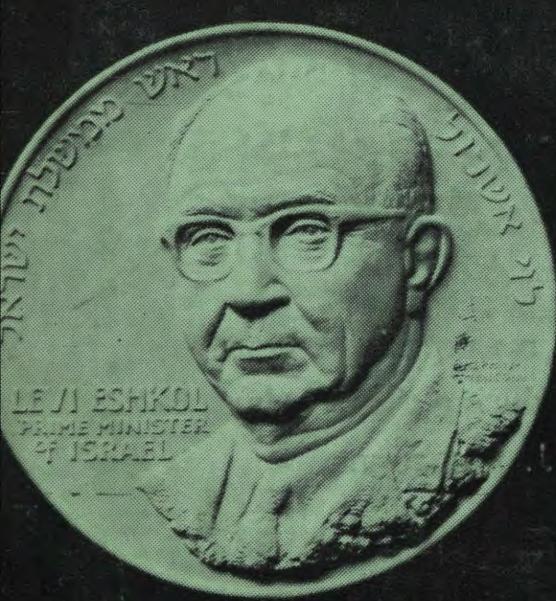
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LEVI ESHKOL, Prime Minister of Israel on a visit to the Western Wall.

